An Overview of Architectural Engineering Undergraduate Courses; Using the Experiences of Three Prestigious Universities in Europe

Abdolreza Azad¹, Vahid Ahmadi²

Abstract

This research paper aims to review technical courses in the field of architecture in undergraduate courses. Architectural education generally lasts 4.5 to 5 years in Iran and in 9 or 10 semesters. In this research, with the method of comparative study, the technical and specialized courses in Iranian universities (Governmental and Azad) are presented separately in the first part, and in the second part, the experience of teaching in the three countries (Germany, Italy, and France) has been reviewed. By comparing the teaching of technical and specialized courses in Iranian and foreign universities, similarities and different issues have been investigated and compared. With this explanation, the method of this research is analytical and comparative. Examining the curriculum of this field in Iran showed that based on the content of the courses presented, there are the following ten general topics: architectural design, structure and technical issues, understanding architecture from a geographical and historical perspective, facilities in the building, construction technical courses and familiarization with civil engineering topics, theoretical basics of architecture, basics related to the perception of urban and rural spaces, knowledge of science and architecture, application of computer and software in architecture and internship. The comparative examination of the curricula of this course with the three examined universities shows the similarity of the content of the courses in general and the difference in details due to the differences in context and geography. At the same time, based on the results, in the surveyed foreign universities, there is more emphasis on workshops and practical courses and communication with the professionals and organizations in the city.

Keywords: Bachelor of Architectural Engineering, Architectural education, Educational goal, Architectural topics, Architectural courses.

¹⁻ Ph.D. student, Architecture, Faculty of Art and Architecture, Islamic Azad University, Golbahar International Branch, Golbahar, Iran (Corresponding Author), (E-mail: abdreza.azad@gmail.com)

²⁻ Assistant Professor, Department of Architecture, Faculty of Art and Architecture, Islamic Azad University, Mashhad, Iran. (E-mail: vahid.ahmadi@mshdiau.ac.ir)